

# HATAY

In the light of the archaeological researches, Hatay is one of the settlements that date back to the very past (early ages). Dating back to the Paleolithic Age, its history is an indication that the city offers very good conditions in terms of climatic conditions and soil fertility. Indeed, Hatay has been a city that many civilizations wanted to have throughout history.

Another feature that makes the Hatay region attractive and makes it open to migrations in every period of history is that it is located at the crossroads of the roads connecting Anatolia to Syria and Palestine via Cukurova. In addition, the most suitable ports that can be used to get out of Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean are also in the Hatay region.

On the one hand, a big city that connects the roads, on the other hand, strategic harbors that open the doors of the city to the world, that connect cities and seas...

Features that make Hatay a world city are not only limited to these of course.

The first known civilization steps in Hatay were unearthed in the excavations at Tell Tainat and Tell Atçana. Furthermore, documents and historical artifacts showing that the late Hittite Principality united and founded the Hattena Kingdom were found in Çatalhöyük near Kırıkhan today.



The name Hatay was given by Atatürk.

Antioch is known to have been named after Antiochus, the father of Nikator I in 300. During this period, water channels were built and water was brought from Defne (Harbiye) to the city. With the Olympics that began in 195 B.C., it became famous as the "City of Olympics".

Between the years A.D. 29-40, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ, St. Pierre came to Antioch and tried to spread religion, and those who believed in Jesus Christ were called Christian here. Later, the city became an important center of Christian religion.

After the War of Independence, the independent government of Hatay was established in 1938 with the intervention of the Turkish Government upon the efforts made for France to give independence to Syria. Lasting for 10 months and 21 days, Hatay State joined the soils of the Republic of Turkey by the decision of Hatay Assembly on June 29, 1939.

Hatay has a very important place with the first illuminated street of the world (today's Kurtuluş Street), the first use of the word "Christian", being the third largest city in the Roman period, and having the first mosque of Anatolia in its bosom.

*Hatay joined Turkey totally as a province with the name "Hatay" on July 23, 1939.*



Yavuz Sultan Selim conquered this land in 1516 and the period of the Ottoman Empire began.

This domination continued until 1918. During World War I, French troops took over the rule of Hatay. Thus, Hatay joined Syria under the auspices of France.

Hatay still lives its history today and makes it live with the legendary tolerance of civilizations, and perhaps with the coexistence of its people who have lived in peace and brotherhood for centuries.

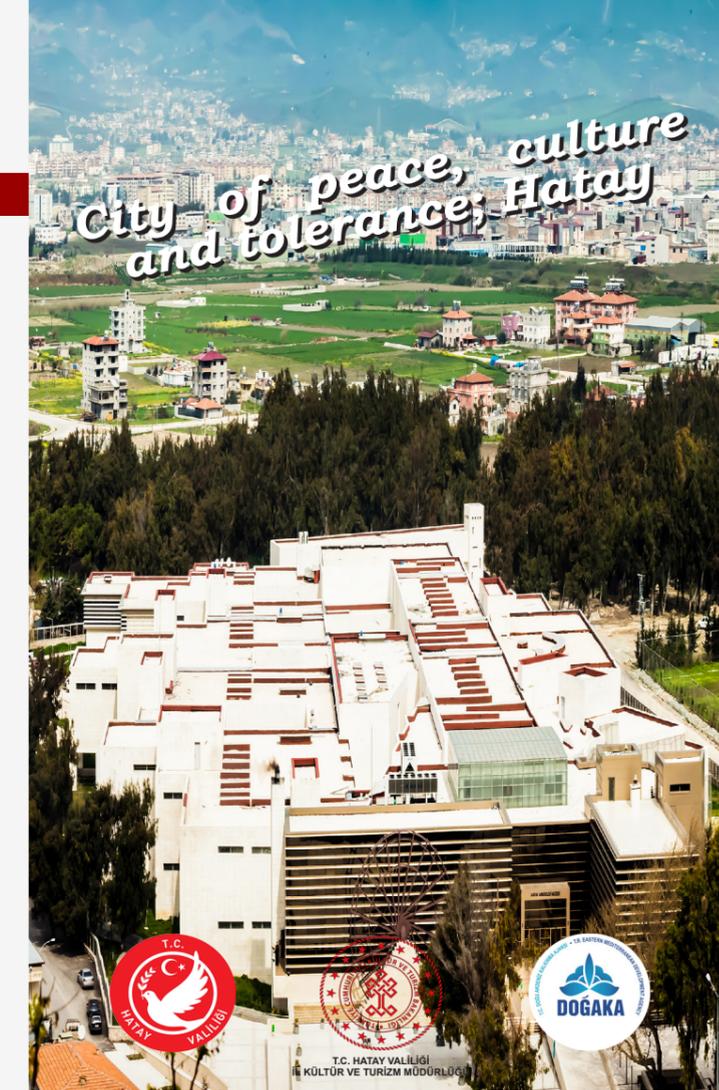
## Trip Suggestions on Hatay Archaeology Museum Route

In the morning, after a breakfast with local tastes, you can visit the Archeology Museum in Maşuklu, where the most important mosaics of the world are exhibited, and then you can turn your way to faith tourism. You can see the St. Pierre Church, one of the oldest churches in Christian history, and Charon, the ferryman of Hades. Then, you can take a tea-coffee break on Mount Habib-i Neccar Observation Terrace.

Catholic Church and Sarımiye Mosque, which are on the back of each other on Kurtuluş Street, Orthodox Church, Protestant Church, Synagogue and Habibi-i Neccar Mosque are among the places you can visit in a short time and those you should visit.

You can wander around the historical Uzun Çarşı (Long Bazaar) and Kurşunlu Han (Leaded Inn) and take a break of tray kebab and coal fired künefe. By continuing your trip, you can get souvenir products from the bazaar. If you have time, you can buy souvenirs for your loved ones by visiting the Ancient Glass House on Kurtulus Street.

After discovering the Old Antakya Houses and Streets, you can end your trip by having best tastes of Hatay Cuisine in Antakya houses turned into restaurants.



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This brochure was printed with the contributions of the Eastern Mediterranean Development Agency.



The World's Largest Archaeology Museum

**HATAY ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM**



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# HATAY ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

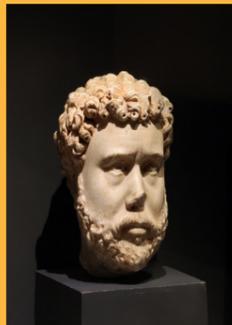


Hatay Archeology Museum is one of the largest mosaic museums in the world. The museum exhibits a rich collection of artifacts from all periods starting from the Paleolithic Period. Most of these works were discovered by excavation teams from various universities, especially Princeton, between 1932-1939. The construction of the initial museum building, which is located close to the Antakya Republic Area, was started on the recommendation of the French Archaeologist M. Prost. The museum building was completed in 1938 and opened to service on July 23, 1948. In 1975, the museum was revised again. The new museum building, the construction of which started in 2011, was constructed having 32,754 square meters of indoor space, 10,700 square meters of exhibition space, and 3,500 square meters of mosaic exhibition area. In the new museum building opened in Maşuklu Quarter of Antakya on December 28, 2014, various historical analogies and animation systems were installed, and legendary areas were created to shed light on the history of Hatay.



You can find many mythological pictures of the mythological period with mosaic ritual in Hatay Archeology Museum.

*'The museum brings together the most magnificent legends and artifacts of the past with visitors from all over the world.'*



## MOSAIC OF YAKTO

It was made in the 5th century A.D., and found in Defne (Daphne). The artifact consists of three parts intertwined. In the middle is a portrait of a woman in medallion. It is understood from the inscription in line with her head that she is the symbol of MEGALOPSYKHIA (Great Spirit). Between the medallion and the border on the edge, there are names written in Greek in line with the heads of the mythological heroes hunting. There are depictions of the city life on the four sides of the mosaic.



## ANTAKYA SARCOPHAGUS

The cover section of the Sidemera Type Sarcophagus in the collection of the Hatay Archeology Museum includes a male extending, a female, two children, a horse and a bird figure with their faces not sculptured. Thought to have been inspired by mythology, the sarcophagus is decorated with various figures on the side of the lid. On the back corners of the cover are reliefs of Pan and Satyr, mythological heroes. The cist is decorated with twisted columns in the form of a semerdam (crib cover) architecture. Different figures and mythological scenes were used as ornaments on all four sides of the sarcophagus. On the upper sides of the cist, lion and bull fight and the game of the goddess of love Eros and leopards were figured. It is estimated to have been made in the 270s A.D.

## STATUE OF SUPPILULIUMA

One of the most important artifacts of Hatay Archeology Museum, the statue of Suppiluliuma II is 3,000 years old and was found in the Tell Tainat Mound in Reyhanlı. Of Hittite King Suppiluliuma II, the statue is 1.5 meters high and weighs about 1.5 tons. The king statue with beard, curly hair and special wristbands symbolizes both fighting and producing by holding a spear in one hand and a spike in the other.



The Biggest Mosaic Museum: Hatay Archeology Museum



## MOSAIC OF SOTERIA

It was made in the 5th century A.D., and found in Antakya. The mosaic is in octagonal form and there is a female bust and inscriptions around it in the center. Around the woman is decorated with geometric patterns. Her long hair falls on her shoulders and she has a golden wreath on her head. She is a metaphorical goddess representing the concepts of salvation, security and protection.



## MOSAIC OF SKELETON

It was made in the 3rd century A.D., and found in Antakya. The scene depicts a skeleton figure slightly stretched out to the left, leaning his elbow on a pillow and holding a goblet in his hand. To the right of the male skeleton figure, depicted in a comfortable and pleasant way, there are two loaves of bread and an amphora with double handles. At the top of the stage, the inscription "EUPHROSYNOS" means "joy, cheer up, join life". In this respect, the skeleton figure, which describes how short and temporary life is, tells about almost a call the guests attending the banquet should follow.



## MOSAIC OF OCEANUS AND TETHYS

It was made in the 4th century A.D., and found in Dafne (Harbiye). God Oceanus and Goddess Tethys are in the back, along with the sea animals, in the sea. In the corners, there are Eros motifs on dolphins.